

What is claimed is:

1. A method of reducing mortality associated with meningococemia comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a bactericidal/permeability-increasing (BPI) protein product to a human suffering from meningococemia.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the BPI protein product is an amino-terminal fragment of BPI protein having a molecular weight of about 21 kD to 25 kD.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the BPI protein product is rBPI<sub>23</sub> or a dimeric form thereof.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the BPI protein product is rBPI<sub>21</sub>.

5. A method of treating a human suffering from meningococemia comprising the step of administering BPI pro-

30

tein product in an amount effective to reduce the number or severity of morbidities.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the morbidities are selected from the group consisting of severe amputations, grafting procedures and permanent neurologic impairment.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the BPI protein product is an amino-terminal fragment of BPI protein having a molecular weight of about 21 kD to 25 kD.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the BPI protein product is rBPI<sub>23</sub> or a dimeric form thereof.

9. The method of claim 5 wherein the BPI protein product is rBPI<sub>21</sub>.

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